

Message Text

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ORIGIN INR-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 OES-06 DLOS-06 FEA-01

ACDA-07 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05

FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

NSC-05 NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAL-01 AGRE-00 /125 R

DRAFTED BY INR/RGE:RDHODGSON

APPROVED BY INR/RGE:RDHODGSON

NEA/AFN:TSWILKINSON

NEA/AFN:WSWEISLOGEL

L/OES:DCOLSON

D/LOS:JPBERNHARDT

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R 201909Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS, TS, LY, ENRG

SUBJECT:LIBYA-TUNISIA CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY DISPUTE

REF: STATE 212136, AUG. 26, 1976

1. REFTEL DETAILED CONVERSATION BETWEEN DEPT.
GEOGRAPHER AND COMMANDANT SAHBANI ON TUNISIA-LIBYA
MARITIME BOUNDARY PROBLEM. DURING CONVERSATIONS SAHBANI
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NOTED THAT USG FORMERLY PUBLISHED BOTTOM CONTOUR (BC)

HYDROGRAPHIC CHART OF TUNISIA-LIBYA-SICILY AREA. BC
DEPICTED LOW-TIDE ELEVATION NEAR THE LAND BOUNDARY
TERMINUS NOTED IN REFTEL. NEW US CHART OF SAME AREA
DOES NOT SHOW THESE ALTHOUGH LARGER-SCALE COASTAL
CHARTS DO.

2. SAHBANI REQUESTED COPIES OF OLD BC FOR USE IN
NEGOTIATIONS WITH LARG. HE NOTED THAT LIBYANS WOULD
NOT ACKNOWLEDGE EXISTENCE OF ELEVATIONS SINCE THEY
WERE NOT SHOWN ON NEWER OVERALL CHART. HODGSON REMARKED
THAT OMISSION STANDARD USG PRACTICE SINCE SMALL SCALE
CHART WOULD NOT BE USED FOR COASTAL NAVIGATION WHEREAS
LARGE SCALE WOULD.

3. HODGSON DETERMINED THAT NO PRINTED COPIES OF OLD BC
EXISTED BUT OBTAINED SEVERAL SPECIAL PRINTS OF BC ON UN-
STABLE PAPER BASE NOT SUITABLE FOR NEGOTIATIONS. SAHBANI
THEN ASKED IF NEGATIVES OF OLD BC COULD BE OBTAINED SO THAT
GOT COULD REPRINT THESE CHARTS FOR USE EITHER IN NEGOTIA-
TIONS OR IN COURT.

4. GEOGRAPHER'S OFFICE HAS OBTAINED DUPLICATE NEGATIVES
OF BC WHICH WILL BE SENT BY AIR POUCH. CHARTS ARE UN-
CLASSIFIED AND UNCOPYRIGHTED. IF EMBASSY PERCEIVES NO
OBJECTIONS THE NEGATIVES SHOULD BE DELIVERED TO
COMMANDANT ABDELAZIZ SAHBANI, MINISTERE DE LA DEFENSE
NATIONALE. FURNISHING OF NEGATIVES SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED
TO BE INTERPRETED AS EVIDENCE OF USG SUPPORT FOR POSITION
OF EITHER SIDE IN DISPUTE. SAME SERVICE WOULD BE
FURNISHED TO LARG SHOULD IT BE REQUESTED.

ROBINSON

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